#### Book Review.

Through the courtesy of the

Copp Clark Publishing Co., Toronto Ont., we have been favored with a copy of Prof. Robert's latest book of poems, The Book of the Native. As fall the Professor's previous books, this one bears the imprint of genius, melody, and best of all, a deep underlying vein of human love and sympathy characteristic of the man. We look in vain for such examples of Canadian patriotism as that contained in his poem "Canada," in a previous volume and unfortunately Canadian patriots can no longer hope for the light of his genius to light up the dark and thorny road leading to NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. But while his patriotism has been unfortunately taken from Canada and merged in that of the "Empire" (we suppose he would say that patriotism toward the Empire was Canadian patriotism, but with all due respect and love for the man as a friend and a poet, we beg leave to differ the mass is too unwieldly to be leavened by it, and he will find we think, that a dual allegiance is not consistent with manhood or true patriotism) we find that his human sympathies are as broad as ever. and the best of it is that he speaks in a language readily understood by even the illiterate—touches a chord instipctively in every human heart that is human, and leaves a healthy and lasting influence. One has only to read "The Little Field of Peace" and "Whitewaters," to get an idea of this; and in the poem among them all least to be considered great by the general public, "The Witches' Flight," we detect a beautiful allegory. For instance: the "Red Mouse" and the "Black Cat" are respectively the spirits of War and Murder, international and religious strife, and the darker passions that cloud the hod. We have all of the latest heart of man and hinder him from making this world a paradise as claim that defective vision can God intended it to be.

They are invited to watch the goat and the toad, harmless creatures who have already risen above national and sectarian hatred and in their turn rise-"on the smoking air," which suggest a revolution, but when the smoke has cleared

> -"The withered breast Grows young and fair And the eyes grow bright
> With alluring light,
> And the fierce mouth softens
> With love's soft prayer."

This is something worth fighting

The "White Sisters naked of limb," typify purity, and is a re-

buke to those prudish half-hearted 1896 souls who see nothing but what is disgusting in the human body; considering themselves wiser than the Creator, who fashioned the naked bodies of our first parents and pronounced them "good," and only began to clothe them after they had sinned and disobeyed.

They mount still higher till they reach the "middle sky," the ideal condition of society, just beneath heaven, where there are neither tramps or millionaires, both legitimate products of our present social

> "With strange embraces And maddened faces, And streaming tresses, They twist and fly."

That is, to put in plain language, they cast aside all conventional restraints and religious bans and revel in a pure, rational and natural love. But,

"The horned moon reddens," the scimitar of repressive rule cuts asunder the cords of love, and "the brief night of delight" stolen from Authority, that linked men and women, and even "four-foot kin," as brothers and sisters, is gone and the star of hope fades away.

For sale at McMurray & Co's bookstore; cloth bound, 156 pages; price \$1.00.

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